

The DEFINITE ARTICLE

We ask a celebrity a set of probing questions – and only accept **THE** definitive answer. This week: Channel 4 News's Krishnan Guru-Murthy



'I love ladies' clothes – not for myself! I enjoy shopping with my wife and female friends and I used to subscribe to Vogue'

The prized possession you value above all others... A graffiti remover spray can given to my wife Lisa and me for our wedding in 2005 by the artist Banksy. We are big Banksy fans and I am one of the few journalists to have met him. The can isn't worth much, but I love it.

The biggest regret you wish you could amend... Not landing a role in the film *Madame Sousatzka* with Shirley MacLaine when I was 17. I made it down to the last two, but lost out.

The temptation you wish you could resist... Saying 'Yes' to everything from social events to chairing conferences. I'm always a bit over-stretched.

The priority activity if you were the Invisible Man for a day... I'd watch our dog Chubby Chops, a Chihuahua. I'd love to find out what he gets up to all day!

The pet hate that makes your hackles rise... Bad customer service in restaurants. I try not to get angry because I know that it embarrasses my wife and children, but it drives me nuts.

Right: Audrey Hepburn in *My Fair Lady*. Above right: Vogue magazine. Far right: A turtle



The piece of wisdom you would pass on to a child... Your parents are not as stupid as they seem!

The unlikely interest that engages your curiosity... Ladies' clothes – not for myself! I've always enjoyed going shopping with Lisa and female friends. I used to subscribe to Vogue!

The person who has influenced you most... My dad, also called Krishnan. He was orphaned aged ten and lived in poverty in Madras. But he became a doctor and worked in the NHS for 50 years. He's 82 now.

The figure from history for whom you'd most like to buy a pie and a pint... Gandhi. He was sanctified and vilified in equal measure. I'd like to find out the truth.

The film you can watch time and time again... *My Fair Lady*. My dad is a big fan, so we watched it many times when I was a kid. I still know the songs by heart.



The treasured item you lost and wish you could have again... A black Paul Smith jumper with fish on it. I wore it during my three years presenting *Newsround* from 1991. I meant to keep it to remind me of those days, but it got lost along the way.

The unending quest that drives you on... To help find a cure for Duchenne muscular dystrophy [Krishnan is a patron of the Duchenne Children's Trust]. It's a devastating disease.

The poem that touches your soul... Robert Frost's *The Road Not Taken*. It's all about the choices you make in life and it reminds me to be content.

The misapprehension about yourself you wish you could erase... That I'm a hard-nosed, arrogant know-all! I sometimes duff people up in TV interviews but I've got a soft, sentimental side too.

The event that altered the course of your life and character... Getting a job on *Open To Question* on BBC2 when I was 18. I was going to be a doctor, but that show kick-started my TV career.

The crime you would commit knowing you could get away with it... I'd hack into the accounts of the banks, then redistribute money to poor countries.

The book that holds an everlasting resonance... George Orwell's *Animal Farm*. It introduced me to the idea that the Utopian dream is inevitably corrupted by those in power.

The song that means most to you... *Fix You* by Coldplay. It came out ten years ago when my daughter Jasmine was born and I listened to it a lot while rocking her to sleep.

The way you would spend your fantasy 24 hours, with no travel restrictions... I'd start the day with a scuba dive in the Maldives to watch turtles. After that, I'd have a buffet breakfast at Parrot Cay Hotel in the Turks & Caicos Islands with Lisa and our kids Jasmine and Jay, who's eight. We'd go for a bike ride around the Italian lakes, then lunch at Emerson & Green, a restaurant in Zanzibar, where we'd have fresh kingfish and spiced coffee. Then we'd take the kids to *The Wizarding World Of*

Harry Potter in Florida. In the evening, I'd have a pint with old mates at The 3 Millstones Inn in my old hometown of West Bradford, Lancashire. Then I'd head for dinner at Soho House in New York with all the family. I'd end the day eating a salt beef bagel at 3am in Brick Lane before collapsing in bed back at home in south-west London.

The happiest moment you will cherish forever... Apart from the births of my children and my wedding, it was cycling up the Champs-Élysées in 2013 at the end of the Duchenne Dash charity bike ride. I never believed I'd make it.

The saddest time that shook your world... The sudden deaths of colleagues Gaby Rado, who died in Iraq in 2003, and cameraman Graham Heslop, who died unexpectedly last year. We're like a family at Channel 4 News and such losses shake us.

The unfulfilled ambition that continues to haunt you... To play a badass villain in a Quentin Tarantino movie.

The philosophy that underpins your life... Always do your best.

The order of service at your funeral... I'd like to be cremated on a Hindu pyre on the banks of the Thames, then there'd be a garden party with live music and lots of drink. I'd like my ashes scattered on the river near our home.

The way you want to be remembered... As a good dad and husband and as someone who spoke truth to power.

The Plug... Channel 4 News, Monday-Friday, 7pm. Twitter @Krishgm. ■
As told to Rob McGibbon



PS...

Benedict Cumberbatch gives us his Hamlet at London's Barbican Theatre from Wednesday. Al Pacino is an ex-con alongside Holly Hunter in Manglehorn – in cinemas from Friday. And Björk headlines at the Wilderness Festival in Oxfordshire the same day



NEXT WEEK

● Ben Fogle launches our fabulous annual Wildlife Photography Challenge ● Monty Don visits the gardens at Charleston, setting for racy BBC drama *Life In Squares* ● PLUS Britain's best TV listings